



# Chairman's Newsletter

Number 5. February, 1980.

## NEW RECORDS IN 1980.

As this Newsletter is being mailed, our membership count stands at 150, a real milestone when you consider that just three years ago Michael Crawforth and I were speculating whether we could recruit 25 scale collectors to get our Society started. At the rate we're growing, 200 members (or more!) now seems a definite possibility in the foreseeable future.

Enclosed is the latest batch of directory cards, including a special one that lists the museums and societies that carry EQM subscriptions. We've also acted on a suggestion from several members and have shown a revision date on member cards bearing changed information.

Important: Some members, alas, are slow in paying their 1980 dues. We ask them to please ease our task by forthrightly sending their money to Albert Eaches. Also, this is as good a time as any to remind all concerned that our policy provides for including delinquent members in our first mailing of the year, but dropping them thereafter until they are current.

Note: Please delete Benjamin Levin from your directory, as he is no longer a member.

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## EQM INNOVATION.

Note that the masthead of the enclosed copy of EQM indicates the first and last page numbers of the issue, thus making for much easier reference. This, too, was the result of a member suggestion, and will appear on the cover of every issue hereafter.

## PUBLISHING IS OUR BUSINESS.

We didn't plan it to be, but that's the way it's turned out. And while it's a lot of work, it's become a welcome source of income. Enclosed is the latest list of ISASC literature available to members, the newest offering being Albert Eaches' historical document and the Crawford translation. If you'd like to broaden your knowledge of scales and weights, we suggest you place your order promptly for whatever interests you, as we seem to exhaust our supply of everything we print before the demand is satisfied.

About catalogs in particular, we're currently offering two -- one new and one old. The new one was published by English auctioneers Outhwaite & Litherland, and presents their "Catalogue of the Imperial & Metric Standard Weights & Measures in Brass, Copper and Bell Metal 1826 - 1954 which will be sold by auction by order of The Greater Manchester Council." We have a limited supply of 24 (courtesy of Michael Crawford), each is 24 pages long, describes 88 lots in detail, and includes 36 photos of scales, weights and measures. According to Michael, it's quite useful as a permanent reference, and to our members, on a first-come, first-served basis, the cost is only a mere \$10, postage prepaid.

The old one is Catalog #19, published by John Chatillon & Son, New York, and bearing a 1916/1921 copyright date. It's 216 pages long and includes "Scales for household and retail use: spring, Roberval, equal arm, and platform styles." It's the first Chatillon published by ISASC, and should make a valuable addition to a collector's library. Cost to members: \$30, postage prepaid.



Enclosed is an order card to facilitate your catalog purchases. Members outside the U.S. should note that shipment by air rather than sea is available at a surcharge. Also, members outside the U.S. are reminded that payment by bank draft, money order, or personal check should be in U.S. dollars.

KUDOS TO CRAWFORTH AND CARLEY.

Before we leave the subject of catalogs, our thanks to Michael Crawforth for lending us his Avery (a precious original) to reproduce, and our special and continuing thanks to Tod Carley, who seems to be spending half his waking hours reproducing, binding, and mailing catalogs. To date we've sold more than 40 of the Averys (there are still some available), and this popular member service simply would not have been possible were it not for Tod's efforts.

ANOTHER "ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME" OFFER.

Now that the Avery catalog is in the mail (as of Feb. 10), Tod is arranging for the latest edition of the "Guide to Weighing Instruments" to have a fancy cover and title, similar to our catalogs. For the benefit of those members who don't own a copy of the "Guide...", in our opinion it's far and away the most definitive treatise on the subject of scales you'll ever come across, and is truly a must for every collector. Current price is \$15, postage prepaid.

MUCH THAT GLITTERS IS BRASS.

One good reason why ISASC is flourishing is because of member interest and participation. We can't think of a better example than Brian Brass, who's gotten involved in two ISASC projects. To eliminate the sometimes excessive bank charges incurred by non-U.S. members when paying their dues in U.S. dollars, Brian volunteered to serve as our overseas fiscal agent and accept dues in "coin of the realm" from overseas members. He then simply converts it all to U.S. dollars in one "wholesale" transaction, thereby incurring only one bank charge. Devilishly clever, those British.

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Brian's other project involves the formation of a European chapter of ISASC, to be launched by an early Spring meeting in London of UK and European members (a total of 42). His first step was to send them all a letter and questionnaire, and if the response is good, the get-together is sure to happen. The next Chairman's Newsletter will carry an updated report on Brian's brain child.

DOLLARS, POUNDS, MARKS, PESETAS, YEN, ETC.

Whatever you call it, and however it may fluctuate, it's what makes ISASC work and what is needed to keep us growing and healthy. 1978 ended with a deficit, and I'm happy to report that income in 1979 not only wiped out the deficit but put us in the black to the tune of about \$400. Not the biggest amount, obviously, but at least an indication that we're moving in the right direction. Enclosed is our 1979 financial statement, which appropriately reminds me to remind all of you that Albert Eaches continues to do an exemplary job as Treasurer and continues to deserve our individual and collective thanks. In case you haven't thought about it, collecting dues from 150 members, handling receipts from catalog, literature and EQM subscription sales, paying bills, and coping with currencies from around the world is no small task, and Albert quietly and efficiently has risen to it from the beginning.

IMPORTANT! AND STILL ABOUT MONEY.

ISASC's pride and joy is EQM, a magazine we all seem to enjoy, if the compliments that come our way are any indication. To date Michael Crawford has relied on an antiquated typewriter to prepare his manuscript, but recently he suggested that ISASC consider a capital investment (our first) of a new IBM Selectric, which not only would make for much better reproduction, but also would allow the use of several type faces in a given issue, thus giving our publication a more varied and interesting appearance.



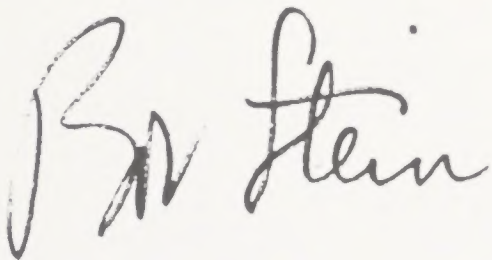
All this sounds fine, but the rub is that we just don't have the money to buy it. So -- for this very important purpose, we're asking each member to contribute \$10 to a special typewriter fund. Hopefully, your response will provide enough money to cover the entire cost, but if we fall a little short, we'll probably dip into our treasury for whatever balance is needed. Send your \$10 contribution (U.S. dollars, please) to me but payable to ISASC. If our effort is successful, you'll see evidences of it in the near future when the postman delivers a more attractive and impressive EQM. And in the next Chairman's Newsletter, I'll provide a full report on "Project Typewriter".

MISCELLANY.

While I always enjoy hearing from members, I'd like to request that any thoughts, ideas, historical and scientific information, scale photos and illustrations, or inquiries about scales that you'd like to pass on to us be directed to either Albert Eaches in the U.S. or Michael Crawforth in England (particularly Michael on EQM matters). They're our resident authorities, and will be more than happy to correspond directly with you.

So much for now. Hopefully we'll have word for you by Spring about the proposed auction and symposium next Autumn.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Stein". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

